



Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for Coal Harbour Dock Expansion

For Immediate Release – September 11, 2007. Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), today announced funding approval by the Board of Directors of \$100,000 for the expansion of dock facilities in Coal Harbour. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$1,246,700.

“The expansion of the dock facilities in Coal Harbour is part of Quatsino Community Society’s efforts to diversify the economy of Coal Harbour by developing its waterfront resources and making it more attractive for tourists,” said Chair Peake.

Chief Councillor Tom Nelson explained that this project will see some major improvements to Coal Harbour’s dock facilities and provide for more floats, washroom and laundry, to complement other improvements to the waterfront. “We hope to interest more visitors to come to our community via transient vessel traffic or by road and help strengthen the economic vitality of Coal Harbour and the Quatsino First Nation,” stated Tom Nelson.

About the Island Coastal Economic Trust

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board’s mandate is to makes strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. Information about the Trust can be found on www.islandcoastaltrust.ca.

For further information call:

Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake
Town of Lake Cowichan
250-749-6681

Al Baronas, CEO
Island Coastal Economic Trust
250-334-2427 Extension 223

Dave Schmidt, Director
Quatsino Community Society
250-949-6245

Chief Councillor Tom Nelson
Quatsino First Nation
250-949-6245

FACT SHEET

The Quatsino Community Society is a non-profit society started by the Quatsino First Nation in Coal Harbour BC. The society was started in 2005 to help provide benefits and services not normally accessible to the Quatsino First Nation and the Coal Harbour Community. This included the transfer and management of the Coal Harbour Wharf from Transport Canada. Five member/directors oversee general operations and provide direction for all operations. One full-time staff member is responsible for services at the Coal Harbour Wharf including a small commercial fisheries offloading facility and through this, 8-10 part time jobs have been created.

Who We Are

Quatsino First Nations and the Quatsino Community Society - The Quatsino First Nation is located on North Vancouver Island about 18 Kilometres west of Port Hardy, adjacent to Coal Harbour. The Quatsino First Nation's Traditional Territory covers the lands and waters from Brooks Peninsula to Cape Scott and contains nineteen small Reserves.

The Quatsino are in the treaty process and are currently in Stage 4 working within the Winalagalis Treaty Group. The band has about 250 members living on reserve with about 150 living off reserve.

Presently the band has three shellfish tenures in Quatsino Sound, soon to be developed, hold various commercial fishing licenses and are the owners of a large industrial park on Rupert Inlet.

Coal Harbour – Coal Harbour is an unincorporated community in electoral Area C located on Holberg Inlet. This town is located on North Vancouver Island, 19 kilometres from Port Hardy. Today Coal Harbour is a community of approximately 450 persons (1996 census). Due to its strategic location, and the highway link to Port Hardy, Coal Harbour has developed as a marine gateway to Quatsino Sound and the west coast. It also serves as both a residential area and service center for the fishing, forestry, and aquaculture industries.

At present, the community is semi-rural in character and although only a limited range of public and commercial services is available, the area has significant suitability and attraction as a living environment.

General Project Timelines

The Coal Harbour Dock Expansion project has been in works since 2005. With the turnover of the facility to the Quatsino Community Society, plans began immediately to restore services that had previously been taken away.

Starting early September or October, smaller works will begin – installation of a public washroom/laundry facility and addition of new moorage fingers. This will allow more boats to tie up both during the summer and winter seasons as well as providing public facilities that are badly needed in the area. Following this as early as late October, major

renovations to the dock will occur – redecking and replacement of damaged piles and stringers. Working through the winter months, all works should be completed by February 2008.

Economic Benefits

Coal Harbour has very few commercial services to offer the public. As this is the gateway to Quatsino Sound and the West Coast, this project will have huge benefits to both the residents of the area as well as visitors and tourists.

Increased boat traffic, both commercial and private will bring more people to the area providing increase business at the wharf. This will spin off business to a new convenience store in the area as well providing increased clientele to boat charters and airplane charters. Residents will experience a bigger, better facility to start their commute to outlying communities.